

DC Bicycle Advisory Council

May 4, 2005

MINUTES

Members in Attendance

Amy Nevel
Chris Craig
Jim Sebastian
Rudi Schreiber
Ellen Jones
Jeanie Osburn
Tomeka Gibbs
Liam Healey

Due to the lack of a quorum, Amy Nevel, now acting chair of the council, asked Chris Holben – Project Manager for the Metropolitan Branch Trail – to begin the meeting with his presentation on the Met Branch Trail.

Metropolitan Branch Trail Presentation

Mr. Holben began his powerpoint presentation summarizing the MBT Concept Plan and the progress of the trail. He also distributed two maps of the preferred trail alignment and CD ROM's of the plan (available at <http://www.metbranchtrail.com/>).

Approval of Minutes

Enough members trickled in during the presentation to reach a quorum. After Mr. Holben concluded, Ms. Nevel asked the council to review the minutes. For future reference, she asked that the minutes be sent out before the meeting in draft form. Ms. Jones moved to approve the minutes and other members concurred. The minutes were approved.

Facilities Subcommittee Update

Ms. Jones gave an update of the recent facilities subcommittee, which focused on bicycles and traffic circles. The subcommittee approved the use of blue asphalt for the planned bike lanes on Thomas Circle. The subcommittee also looked at Columbus Circle, an important area for cyclists due to the convergence of Massachusetts Ave, the Met Branch Trail, and the proposed bike station. Tom Whitley commented on the prevalence of jersey barriers near Columbus Circles, particularly those near the Capital City Brewery. At the subcommittee meeting, members also took time to review the DDOT Bicycle Design Guide.

Tomeka Gibbs asked for clarification on the bike station. Mr. Sebastian gave a brief summary of the purpose and services provided. Ms. Jones said that she recently saw the Berkeley, CA bike station. It is located within the transit station and makes efficient use of limited space. Jim

mentioned that the bike station coalition will provide guidance in the design of the DC bike station. The station will be approximately 1,500 square feet and requires the approval of the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts and the Architect of the Capitol. Ms. Jones added that the group would be willing to meet again if the group would like to work on other projects.

BAC Vacancies

Chris Craig, who was attending his last meeting before moving to West Virginia, informed the group that he sent an e-mail to Councilman Jack Evans's office announcing his departure from the BAC. They said to go ahead and put a search out for a new member. He also contacted the Sierra Club but has yet to receive a response. Jim will send out an e-mail announcing the two BAC vacancies.

Subcommittee Vacancies

Next, Ms. Nevel directed the Council to a handout of subcommittee vacancies. She encouraged BAC members who are not on a subcommittee to volunteer their time; for those already participating, she asked if they would like to change subcommittees or remain on the same subcommittee. Amy asked Jim to send an e-mail asking for those members not present to participate in the subcommittees. Ms. Nevel asked for subcommittees to meet during the months without BAC meetings. Rudi Schreiber suggested a special BAC meeting next month where all the subcommittees will break out into their respective groups. The group agreed and Ms. Nevel made the meeting mandatory for all BAC members, adding that, as always, all nonmembers are welcome. Mr. Sebastian will send out a notice informing BAC members that this special meeting will take place on June 8 at 6:15 pm.

Other Business

Moving on, Ms. Nevel asked if members had any other questions or issues that they would like to discuss. There was a request to make new placards. Ms. Gibbs asked if the charter or bylaws were available. Rudi, Jim and Chris all said they have hardcopies of the bylaws. Amy suggested an orientation at the beginning of the next meeting to refresh older members and inform new members of the role and purpose of BAC. Amy and Jim agreed to work together to develop a new member packet.

Ellen Jones asked to include bridge sidewalk maintenance to the DDOT Bicycle Program Update page (a handout from the meeting). She also asked the deadline date for comments to the proposed changes to the DC Bicycle Regulations. Mike Goodno responded that all comments must be received no later than thirty (30) days after the date of publication in the D.C. Register, which was March 18, 2005. Mr. Sebastian said that DDOT has received some constructive comments and will make an effort to include them. Ms. Jones replied that the legislative subcommittee would like to review the public comments at their next meeting.

Bicycle Registration

Tomeka Gibbs mentioned that she tried to register her bike and was told that it was pretty much useless to do so. This led to a short conversation of the Council's wish to abolish mandatory bicycle registration. Mr. Sebastian reported that DDOT's attorneys must negotiate with the agencies that have authority over registration. Mr. Schreiber added that it is possible to write

legislation for other agencies, and that DDOT should be able to go forward with the proposed changes after consulting with all affected agencies.

Announcements

Bike to Work Day is May 20. Jim announced that the Mayor may be riding with the BAC to Bike to Work Day and asked all interested members to send him an e-mail. Rudi Schreiber is also trying to get Gregg Pane, newly confirmed Director of the DC Department of Health, to participate in the event. He asked others to help advocate for Mr. Pane's participation.

David Cranor gave an update of the recent Anacostia River Trail system meeting. He stressed that comments on the trail were generally positive. David asked about including the Old Trolley Trail to Glen Echo in the Bike Master Plan.

Ms. Osburn announced the upcoming national Ride of Silence (<http://www.rideofsilence.org>). The memorial bicycle ride will take place in more than 50 U.S. cities to honor cyclists who have been killed or injured while cycling on public roadways. The local DC ride will be in memory of David Van Keuren as well as others involved in cycling crashes. Riders will meet at Carton Barron Amphitheater at 7 pm on May 18.

Chris Craig announced that Ms. Jones is running for the League of American Bicyclists board. He also said that he has contacted Alexa Viets to make some signage changes to improve cyclist safety at a blind corner by the Fish Wharf (he couldn't recall the street name).

Mr. Schreiber made a motion to adjourn. All were in favor.